shortage of 24.71 million dwelling units as on 2007. In percentage terms the housing shortage for LIG in urban areas is 11.70% of total urban housing shortage as on 2007.

Housing being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been taking several initiatives for addressing the issue of housing shortage from time to time. Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) structured for a seven year period (2005-06 to 2011-12), the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) programme seeks to provide housing and basic services to the urban poor in 63 selected Mission Cities and the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) makes a similar provision for non-mission cities. Houses at affordable cost for Lower Income Groups (LIG) is an identified component under both these Schemes. Further, the Government with a view to provide interest rate subsidy for housing loan availed by urban poor categorized as Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Lower Income Groups (LIG) has made a budget provision of Rs. 30 crore for the financial year 2007-08.

(c) The Technical Group has estimated the shortfall in urban area for the Middle Income Group (MIG) along with Higher Income Group (HIG) as 0.04 million dwelling units in the country as on 2007.

(d) and (e) Keeping in view the changing socio-economic parameters of the urban areas and growing requirement of shelter and related infrastructure, it has been decided to have a new National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy in place of the exiting National Housing Policy 1998. The draft National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy 2007 *inter-alia* provides for strong partnership among private, public and cooperative sectors and facilitates to bridge the gap between demand and supply of housing and infrastructure.

Violation of Manual Scavengers Act

1091. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings are violating provisions of "Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993;

(b) if so, the action that are proposed by the Central Government;

(c) the number of States yet to adopt the above Act; and

(d) the reasons for her Ministry not giving priority to such an important matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The States/UTs have reported around 6 lacs dry latrines existing in some parts of the country. The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 prohibits to engage or employ a person for manually carrying human excreta. The Act, 1993 provides that the State Governments by notification specify that no person shall construct or maintain a dry latrine. The State Governments/UTs have been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the provision of the Act.

(c) and (d) So far, the Act of 1993 has been adopted by 20 States and all UTs.

5 States Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim have reported that there are no dry latrines or they are scavengers free.

2 States Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh have enacted their own Act.

The State of Jammu & Kashmir is yet to adopt the Act. States/UTs have been requested to implement the Act effectively from time to time.

Plans to meet housing shortage

1092. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether both India and China face acute housing shortage in the urban areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while China has worked out a viable solution, India lacks institutional financial options for the poor and the rising cost of property are the major barriers being faced by this country; and

(c) the action plan of Government on reserving land, adopting vertical constructions in congested areas, reducing prices through use of low cost material, etc. to measure up to the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Urbanisation is a global phenomenon and both India and China face challenge of growing urban housing requirements. The Technical Group (11th Five Year Plan: 2007-2012) on estimation of urban housing shortage has estimated urban housing shortage as 24.71 million dwelling units at the end of 10th Five Year Plan.

Housing being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been taking several initiatives for addressing the issue of housing shortage from time to time. The Government, with a view to encourage urban poor to avail of loan facility has made a budget provision of Rs. 30 crore for the financial year 2007-08 under the interest Subsidy Scheme of Housing for the Urban Poor (ISSHUP).

Keeping in view the changing socio-economic parameters of the urban areas and growing requirement of shelter and related infrastructure, it has been decided to have a new National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy in place of the existing National Housing Policy 1998. The draft National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy 2007 seeks to bridge the gap between need and supply of housing and infrastructure and *inter-alia* provides for accelerating the pace of development of housing and related infrastructure; creating adequate and affordable housing stock both on rental and ownership basis including by use and promotion of cost effective building materials/technology; encouraging State Governments/Development Authorities to periodically review, their master plans and zonal plans; and facilitating accelerated supply of serviced land for housing with particular focus on Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Lower Income Groups (LIG).

Survey of Urban Poor

1093. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to conduct an all India survey of urban poor;